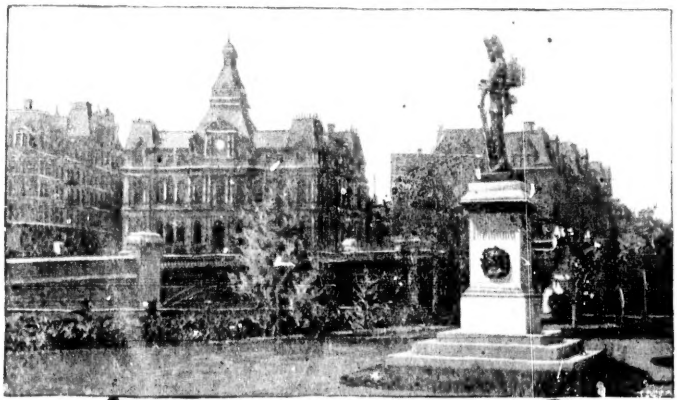
TOURISTS' GUIDE TO OTTAWA



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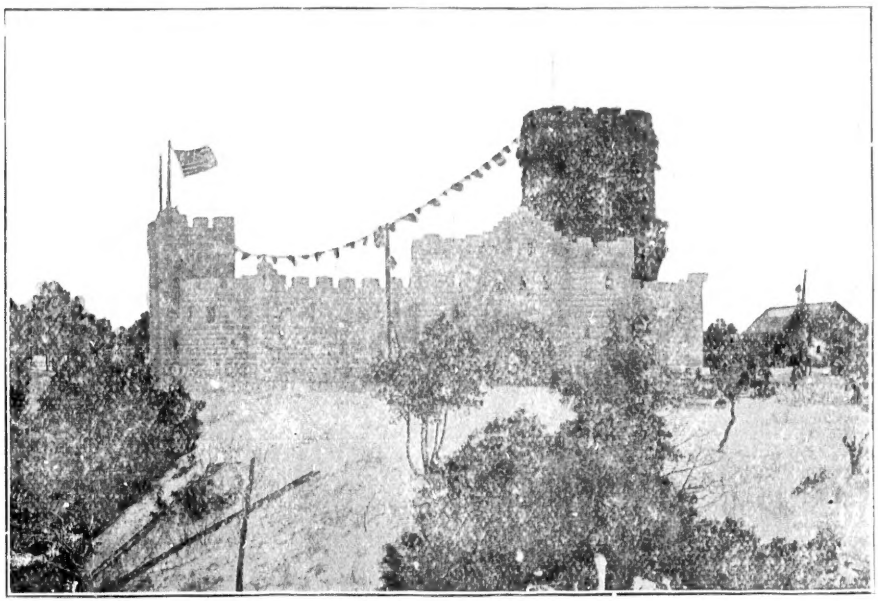
TOURISTS' GUIDE TO OTTAWA.

OTTAWA, the Capital City of British America, dates its origin from the commencement of the Rideau Canal, under Lieut.-Col. By, Royal Engineers, in the year 1826. Following the troops that accompanied By to the scene of operations came first the cluster of laborers' shanties which formed around the canal's eastern terminus at Entrance Bay, with the somewhat better dwellings in which the traders who furnished the necessaries of life were accommodated. Situated at the confluence of the Rideau and Gatineau with



ICE CASTLE.

the Grand River (now called the Ottawa), each of them draining districts rich in agricultural and timber resources, and just at the point where it became necessary to rearrange the rafts brought down from the immense timber regions of the Upper Ottawa on account of the impossibility of carrying them unbroken over the Chaudiere Falls, the village grew rapidly to be a town of importance. In 1854, a population of 10,000 being attained, the town was transformed by Parliament into a city under the name it has since borne, the change taking place 1st of January, 1855.

Under the Act in question the city was divided into five wards, each of which became entitled to representation in the Council of three Aldermen. From this period the city has gone forward with leaps and bounds, and has probably made greater headway in proportion to its population than any other city in the Dominion. In 1857 Her Majesty fixed upon it to be the permanent seat of government of United Canada, a decision ratified and confirmed by Parliament. In 1859 the public buildings required for the accommodation o

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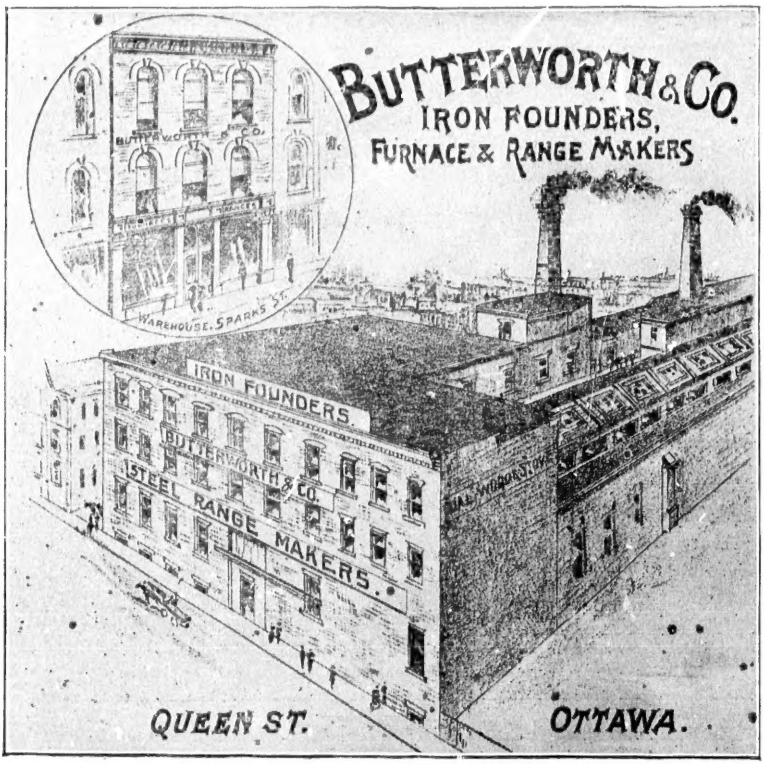

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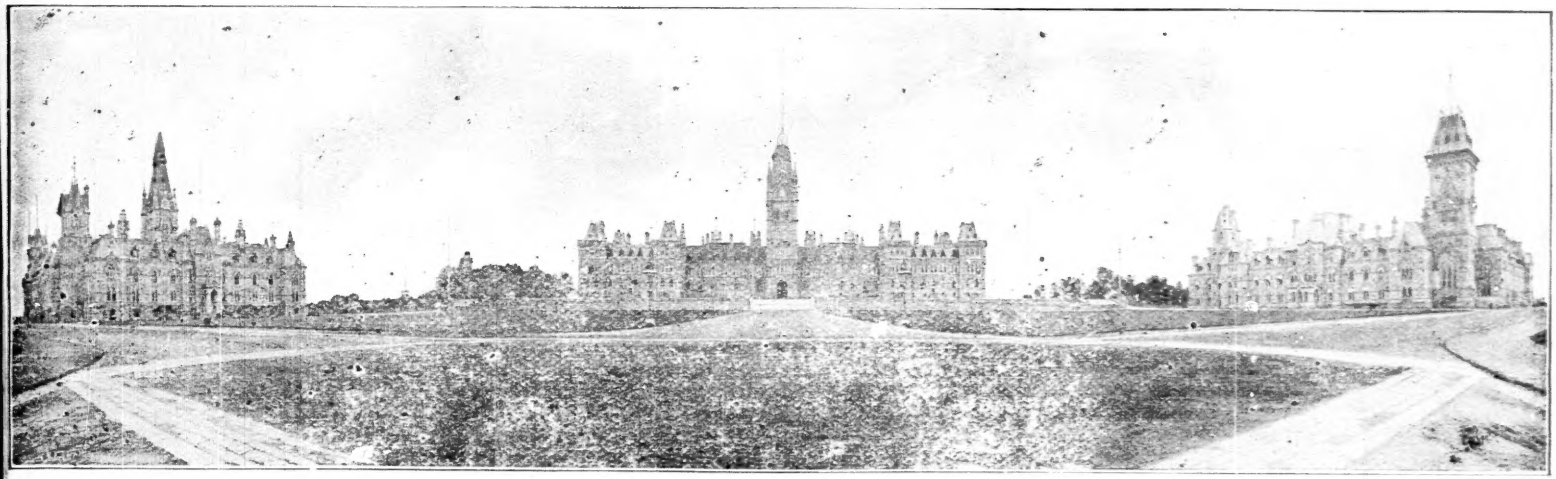

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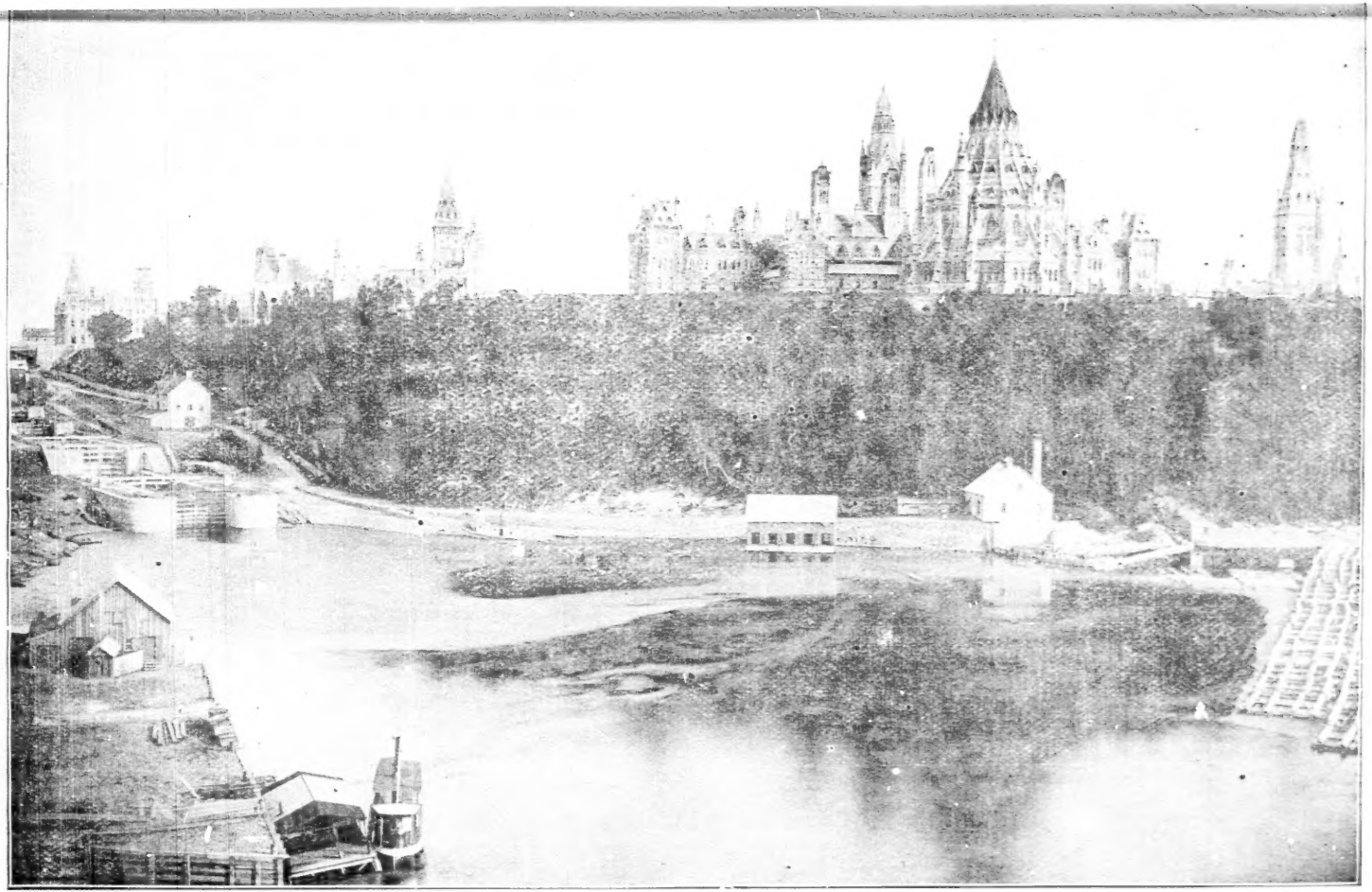

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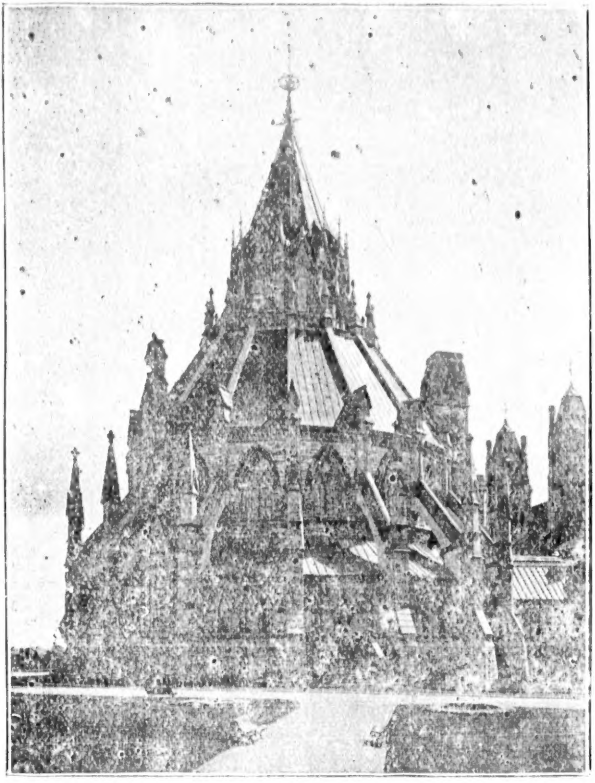

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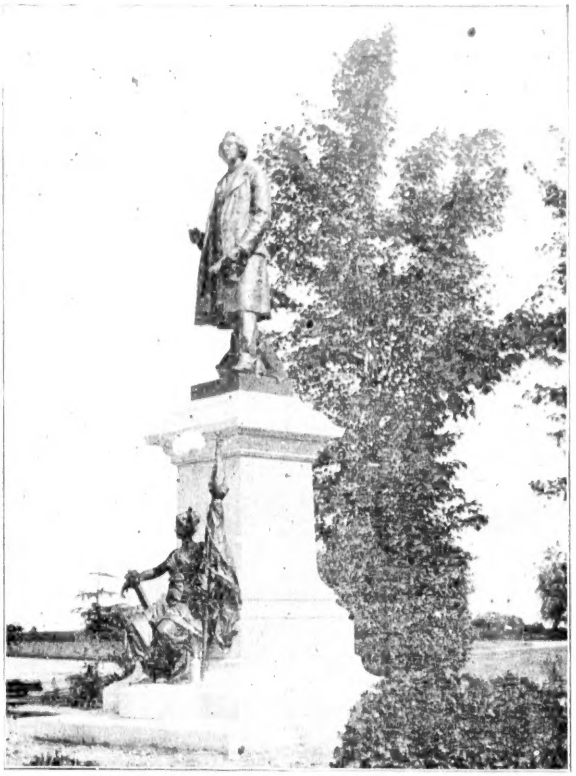

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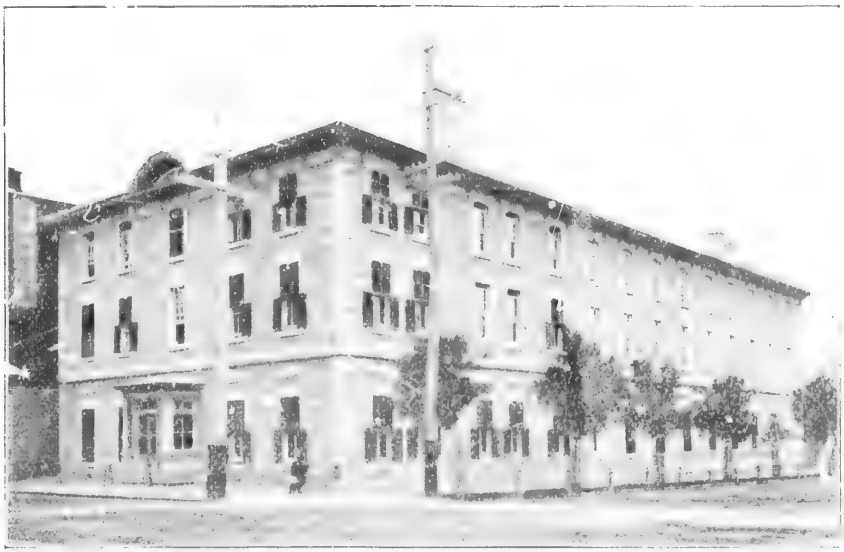

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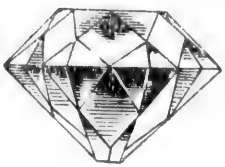

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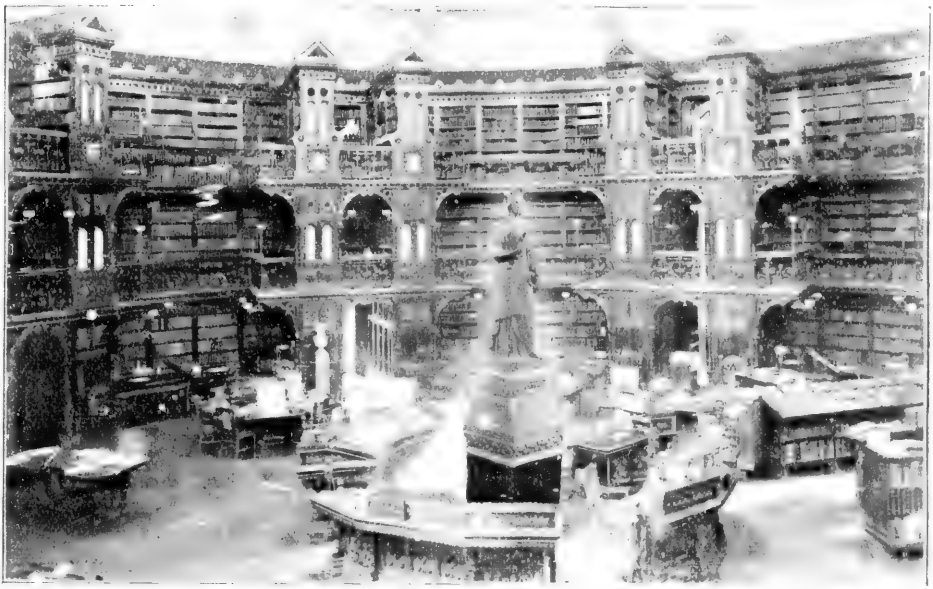

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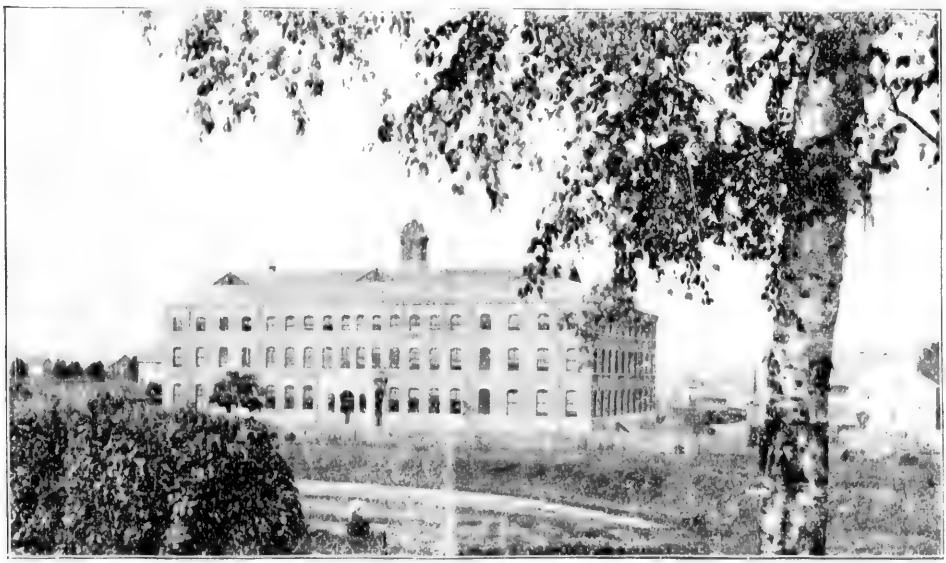
Parliament and the Civil Service were commenced, and were completed n 1865, causing the removal to Ottawa of an army of public officials with their families. In 1866 Parliament met in Ottawa for the first time, thus further adding to the population and importance of the place. Ottawa added to her greatness and dignity in 1867 by becoming the Capital of the Dominion under the political system then established.

The following table shows the rapid growth of the city:

Incorporated as a town the population of By Town was,	5,000
1854,	10,000
1861,	14,669
1871,	21,545
1881,	31,307
1891,	44,154
1892,	50,000
1895,	60,000

With the addition thereto of the population of Hull, which is practically a suburb of the political metropolis, of 11,265, the population of Ottawa stands at



GOVERNMENT PRINTING BUREAU.

the present moment at 71,265. No other city, east of Winnipeg, has shown such a marvellous rate of growth, and warrants the belief that at the same rate of increase it will not be long before Ottawa will take third place among the cities of the Dominion. She now ranks second in Ontario. In point of wealth and commercial expansion and importance the development and increase go hand in hand. The civic assessment and customs returns are the best guides in this respect. The former shows that while the assessment in 1867 was $5,167,686, it is now, in 1893, $18,616,985. During the last ten years the city has nearly doubled in wealth and population. The customs returns show that in 1869-70 the total amount collected was $98,622, while in 1876-77 the collection had increased to $205,616, and in 1892 to $367,629. The value of imports in the year last mentioned was $3,741,201, and of exports $1,942,051. Truly Ottawa has no reason to be ashamed of the showing which she is making among the cities of the Dominion

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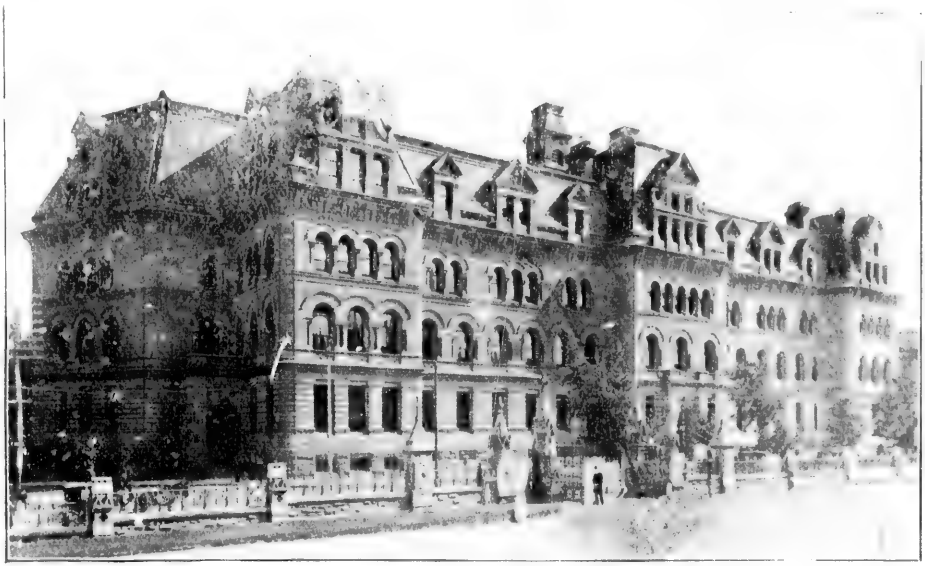

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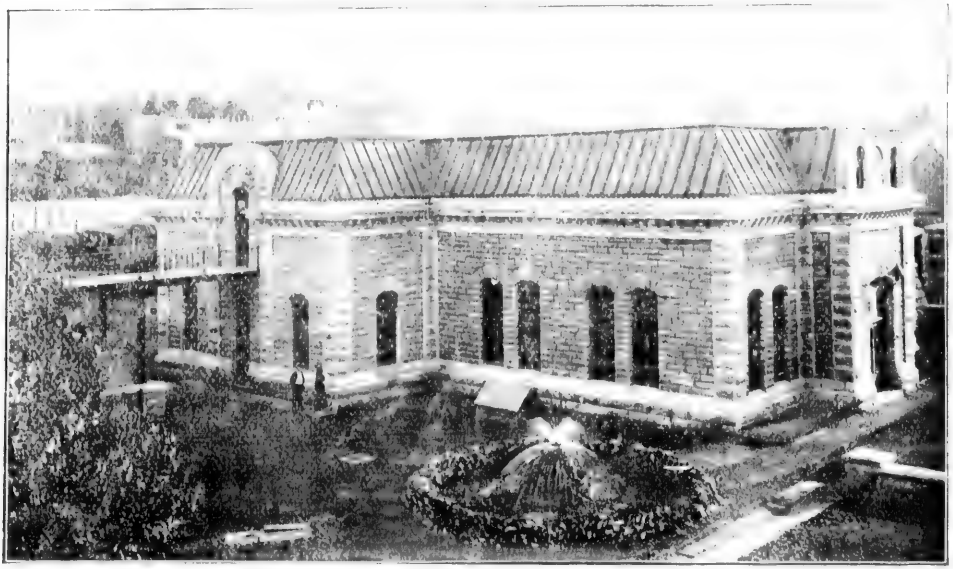
TO the tourist Ottawa's chiefest attractions are the national buildings, erected by the country for the use and accommodation of the Parliament and public servants of Canada, respecting whose artistic merits so much has been said and sung. In approaching Ottawa, from whatever quarter, the Parliament buildings are the most conspicuous. They stand out against the clear sky in all the beauty of seemingly varied architecture. Towers, pinnacles, buttresses and gables are in the distance apparently heaped upon each other, and only become well defined on nearer approach. In speaking of them, Lovell says: "Their splendor, their fine, commanding site, together with the beauty of the surrounding scenery, place them in a very enviable position compared with other structures used for similar purposes, and must ever be objects of interest to the tourist and stranger, and pride to the people of Canada." They are four in number: the Parliament Building, the Eastern Departmental Building, the Western Departmental Building, and the Langevin Block; the last



WATER WORKS.

so called after the Minister of the Crown under whose supervision the building was constructed. With the exception of the Langevin Block, which stands on Wellington Street, almost facing the Parliament House, these buildings are all on the "Hill," forming three sides of a quadrangle; but they are not joined, the vacant spaces at the corners being of considerable extent; the fourth side of the quadrangle opens on Wellington Street. They cover a space, with surrounding walks and drives, of thirty acres. The style of architecture—as Anthony Trollope, the novelist, allows—is almost pure Gothic. The central, or main building is devoted to the service of the Senate and the House of Commons. It stands on the north side of the quadrangle, upon which it presents a front of 472 feet in length and two stories in height above the basement, its breadth being 370 feet at the centre and 181 feet across the main, eastern and western entrances; height of tower over entrance, 220 feet. From this tower—which can be ascended by any one upon application to the proper officer—it is said the view of at least half a dozen counties can be obtained. The Eastern Building has two

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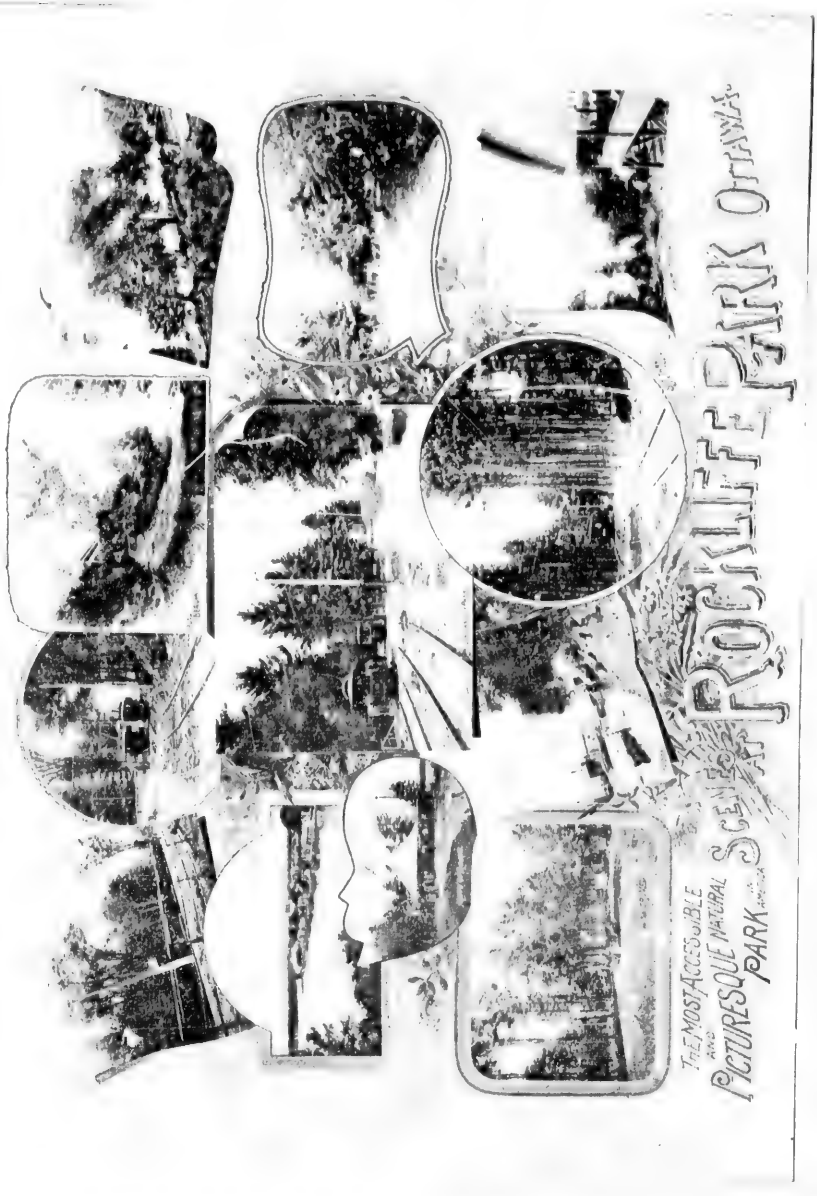

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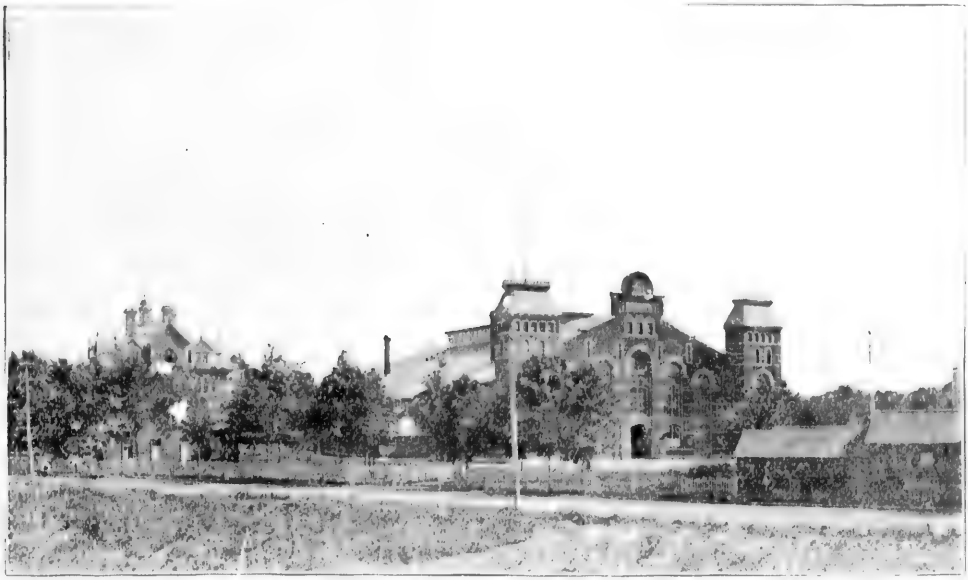

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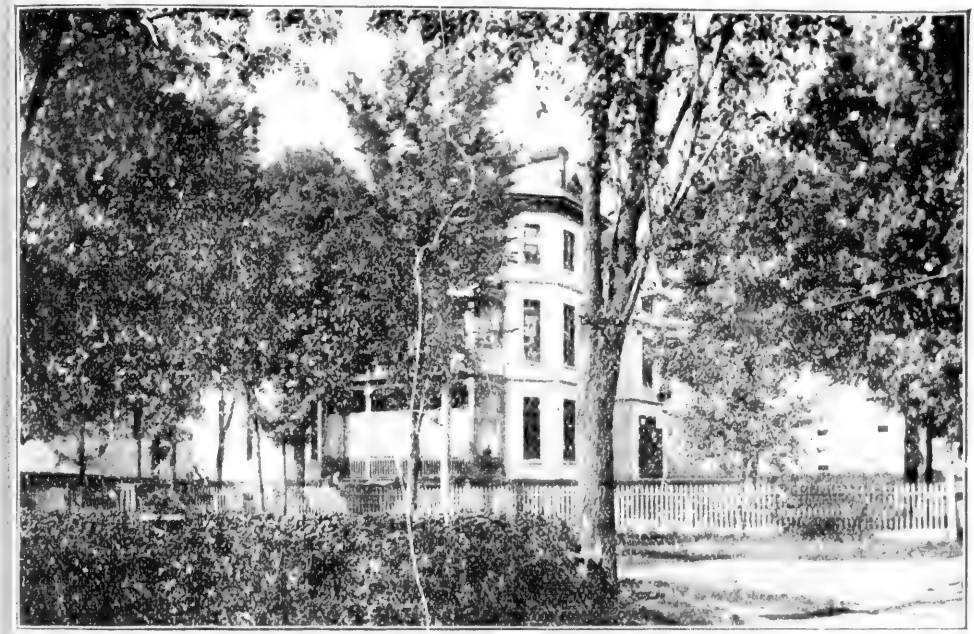
principle facades at right angles to each other, one 319 feet in length and the other 245 feet on Wellington Street. The Western block is somewhat similar in shape to the Eastern, having a frontage of 220 feet on the Square and 277 feet upon Wellington Street. The public departments are distributed among the several buildings as follows: Eastern Building—Governor-General's office, Privy Council, Secretary of State, Justice, Finance, Interior, and Auditor-General. Western Block—Railways and Canals, Public Works, Militia, Trade and Commerce, Customs, Inland Revenue, Marine and Fisheries, Mounted Police, and Archives. Langevin Block—Post Office, Agriculture, and Indian Affairs. The Patent Office is attached to the Department of Agriculture and in the same building. The Geological and Natural History Survey, with its splendid museum, which is daily attended by many visitors, occupies the old barracks on Sussex Street.

In 1875 an extension was made to the Western building under the administration of Mr. Mackenzie, hence the name of the tower then put up facing the Chaudiere. This tower is 274 feet in altitude, the highest in Ottawa. The

LADY STANLEY INSTITUTE.

Library building in the rear of the Houses of Parliament was not completed until 1877. It was this building—an octagonal one in shape, like the chapter-house of a cathedral—which Mr. Trollope declared would alone be worthy a trip across the Atlantic. It is circular inside, and 290 feet in diameter. The main wall is about four feet thick, and possesses an exterior face of sixteen sides, at each angle of which there is a flying buttress spanning the roof of the lean-to and joining the main wall at a height calculated to resist the thrust of the roof. The library is floored with Canadian woods in oak, ash, cherry and walnut. The fittings and bookcases are in pine, the latter in three stories with eight divisions, the spaces forming small alcoves enclosed with iron railing. The library was designed to contain 103,000 volumes, but there are now no less than 155,000 stored therein. A life-size marble statue of the Queen, executed by the late Marshall Wood, an English artist, adorns the centre of the library. A replica of this noble work is at Calcutta. According to Mr. F. A. Dixon, in "Pictures

que Canada," the most advantageous position from which to view these buildings is from Nepean Point. Sufficiently near to take in as a whole, and yet far enough off to be merged in the grace-giving veil of the atmosphere, their effect in the warm glow of the sun as it sets in the West is described as being simply delightful to the painter's eye. Bit by bit their dainty towers and pinnacles and buttresses fade out in the subdued tones of evening, changing from a "symphony in red to a harmonizing gray," 'til moonlight makes them all glorious as a "nocturne in silver and black." The growing wants of the service necessitated the construction of the Langevin Block in 1883, at an expenditure of $787,000. This is a massive building of the Louis XIV. style, and therefore not in keeping with the others. The total cost of the Ottawa buildings up to 1892 was about $5,000,000. Among other Federal buildings in Ottawa are those on Bank Street, devoted to the Supreme and Exchequer Courts; that on Sussex Street, before referred to, occupied by the Geological and Natural History Survey; the



PROTESTANT HOSPITAL

building at the corner of O'Connor and Queen Streets, used for the National Art Gallery and Fishery Exhibit; and the Drill Hall on Cartier Square, devoted to military purposes, and in which exists a museum containing a variety of interesting relics connected with the military *regime*.

Scenery.

THE front portions of the city of Ottawa stand on a succession of bluffs, and when viewed from the river are seen to great advantage. From the high cliffs, on which our noblest buildings have been erected, can be witnessed scenes of natural beauty unsurpassed by any on the continent; rich in all the varied charms of mountain river and forest, and enhanced by the surrounding triumphs of architectural skill. The river Ottawa, on the southern bank of which the capital stands, ranks as the largest of the third class rivers on

the continent: on the opposite bank lies the city of Hull, its more distant cottages blending with farm and forest, while at the back of the whole scene, stretching out interminably to either hand, loom up the dark Laurentian Hills. Below, the river's surface is dotted with steamboats and small craft of every description. Covering the low-lying shores to the west are huge piles of lumber which tell of the chief industry of that portion of the capital, and further up the stream can be seen the boiling masses of water as they hurl themselves over the Chaudiere Falls. To the east the river can be seen for many miles wending its way through field and forest towards the ocean. Close at hand are the timber slides by which the square timber from the Upper Ottawa passes down without damage into the navigable water below. To go down the slides on a crib of timber, is as exhilarating as it is exciting.

Ottawa is divided by the Rideau Canal running through it, and is laid out in wide, regular and uniform streets, which are planted with shade trees and provided with drinking fountains. Its geographical location, when compared

NORMAL SCHOOL.

with other cities, makes Ottawa one of the most easily accessible cities from all points of Canada, and with its seven railroads and many steamboat facilities possesses more and better forwarding capabilities than any of its inland sister cities.

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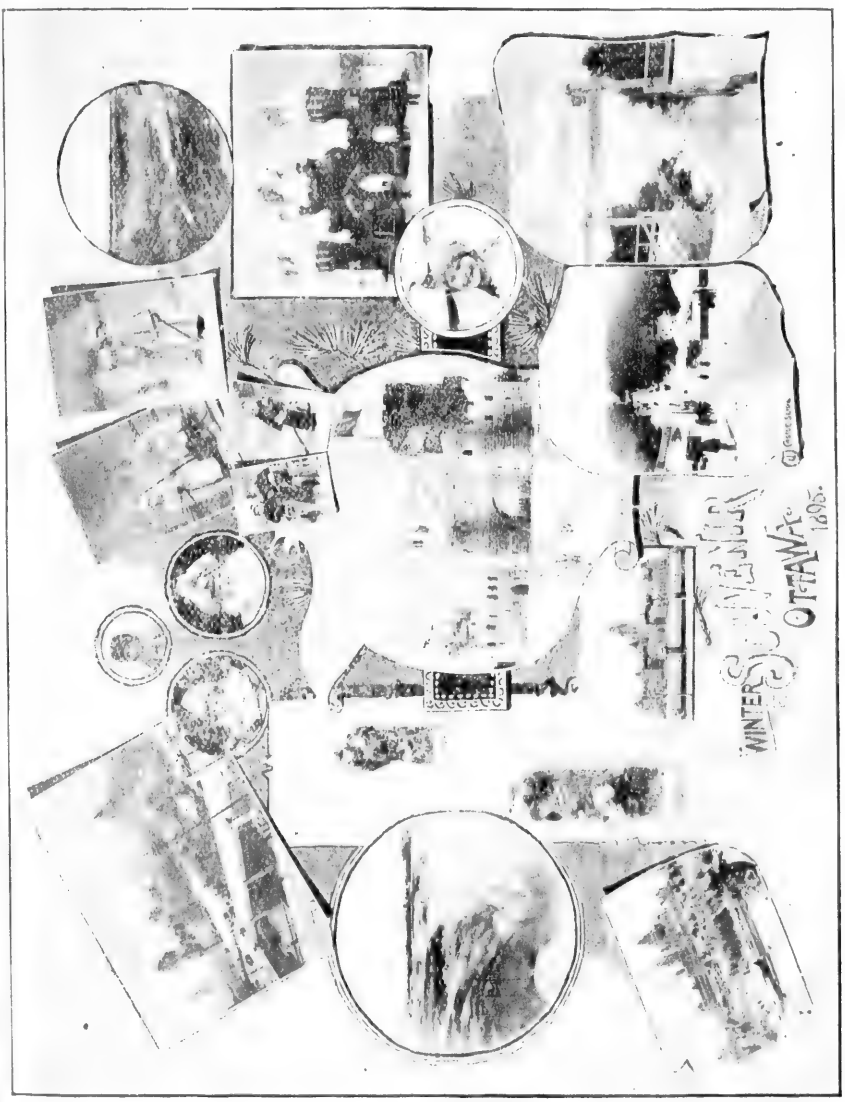

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liament Hill has already been mentioned, and a great deal of what has been said of it will apply to Major's Hill Park, both of which are under the control and supervision of the Federal Government.

Rockliffe Park has become a favorite public resort.

The beauty of the outlook down and beyond the Ottawa River is beyond description. This beautiful place of recreation is now largely patronized in warm weather by the citizens of Ottawa.

Rideau Hall.

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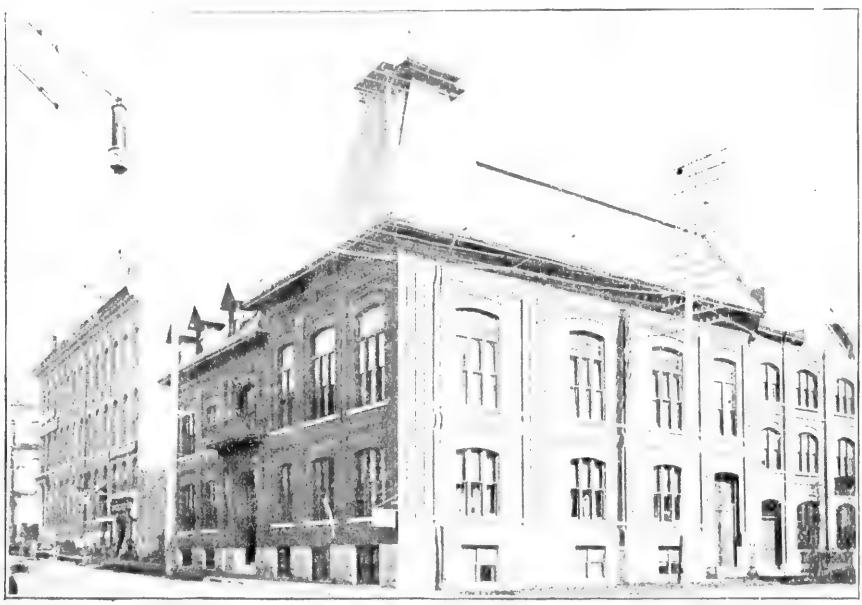

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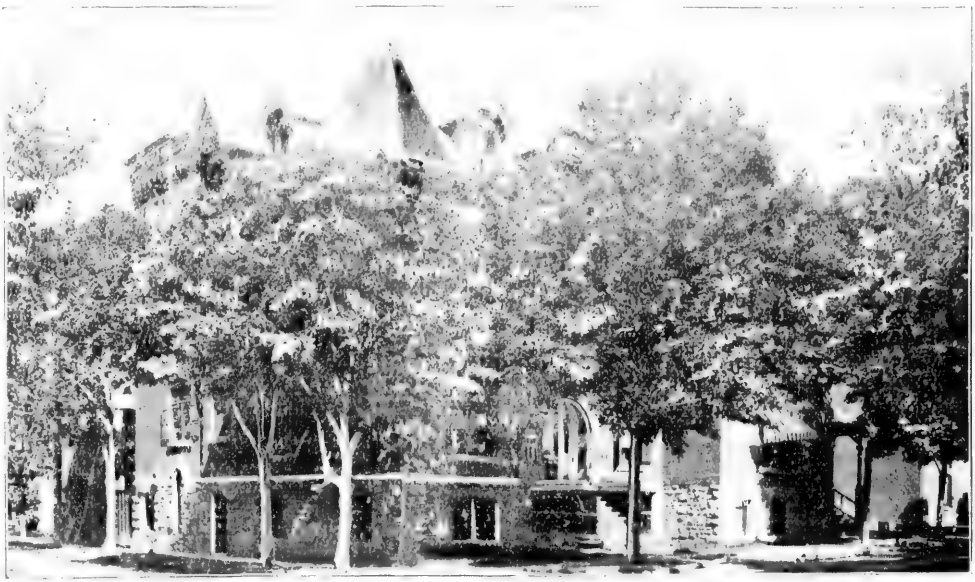

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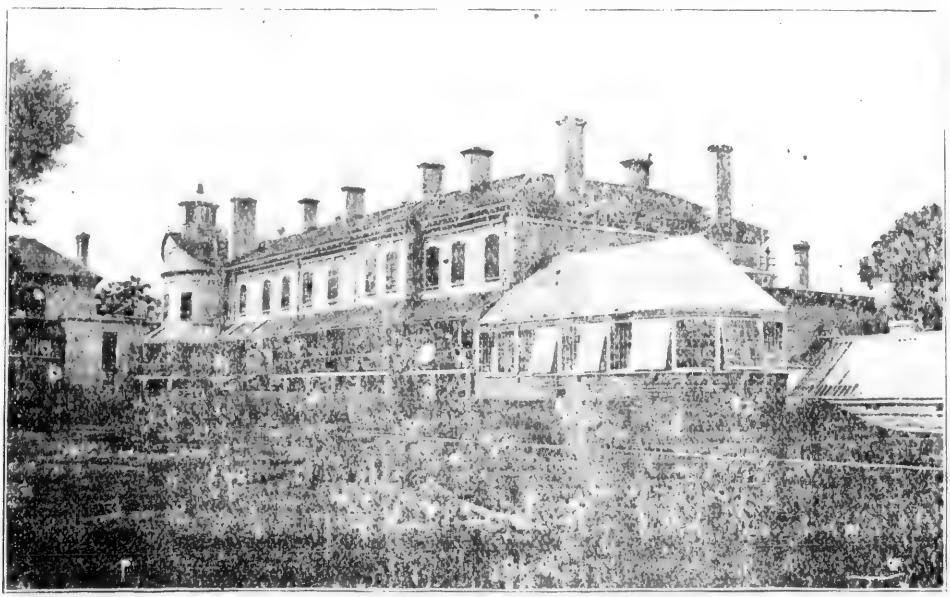

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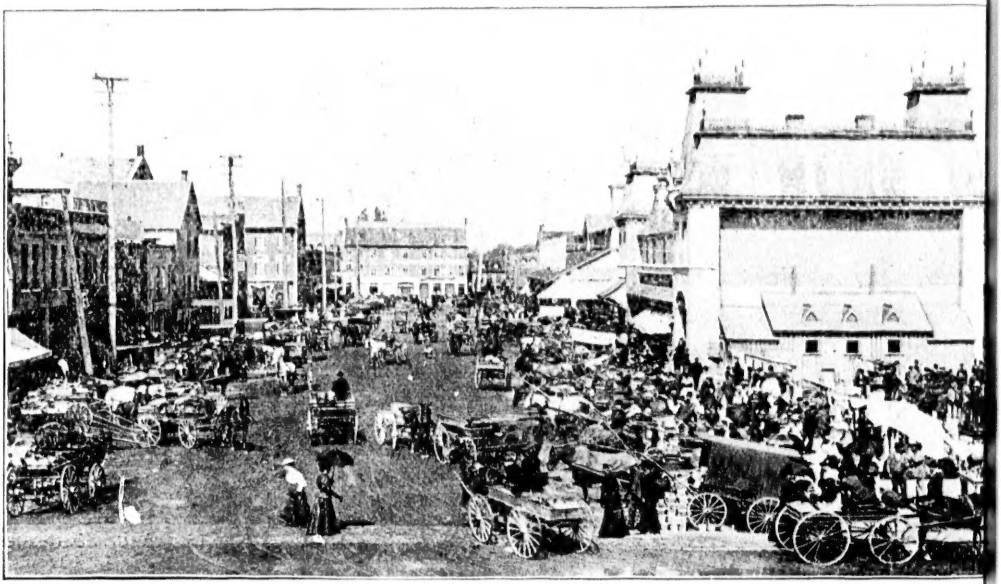

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